

POWER of ALMIGHTY GOD:

SET FORTH IN

The Heathens Conversion.

IN SEVEN PARTS.

S H E W I N G

The WHOLE LIFE of

PRINCE JEHOSEPHAT,

The Son of KING AVENERIO,

of BARMA in INDIA.

How he was converted and made a Christian,
which was the Conversion of his Fa-
ther and the Whole Land.

By a REVEREND DIVINE.

L E E D S.

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T H E
POWER of ALMIGHTY GOD :
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P A R T I.

*King Avenerio's Persecution over the Christian Faith;
he prayeth to his idols that his Queen might bear a
Child.*

This may be sung to the Tune, AIM NOT TOO HIGH.

GOOD christian people, now be pleas'd to mind
This little book, and in it you will find
Divine records shows plainly to our view,
What miracles our gracious God can do.

Full well we know this is the heathens case,
Tho' they have not receiv'd the light of grace :
By nature the sun, moon and stars obey,
Thus ev'ry land some kind of homage pay.

Thus by degrees God calls them home we know,
And mighty miracles does daily show,
To make his righteous gospel spread and shine,
That all may know his power most divine.



Then let the ignorant atheist blush for shame,
And never more abuse God's holy name,
For God created all things, great and small,
And man to be chief ruler over all.

The cause of this my treating I'll explain,
In foreign lands a tyrant king did reign ;
A persecutor of the christian faith,
As many good and learned writers saith.

His queen was young and beautiful also,
In worldly pleasures they did overflow ;
One thing which most their comforts did destroy,
Because they had no issue could enjoy.

This king, who in vain idols did believe,
Sent for his priests to pray she might conceive :
*Pray to our Gods, said he, that we may have
A child, for that is all I need to crave.*

*For with all sorts of plenty I am blest,
Whate'er my heart can wish to be possess :
A child will crown my days with pleasure then,
And I should be the happiest of men.*

They all reply'd, we will your will obey,
And for this thing we to our gods will pray :
The king said, *If such blessings come to me,
Then you shall surly well rewarded be.*

Vain ignorant man God's law so disobey'd,
To think that idols, which by hands are made,
Hath power : No ; such things let us defy,
And put our faith and trust in God most high.

Who is the righteous living God of might,
Nothing is hidden from his blessed sight,
He knows man's thoughts, and sees his actions still,
And nothing can be done without his will.

P A R T II.

*The Queen proving with Child, he rewarded his
Idol Priests, and sent for the Wise Men.*

THUS in a vain presumptuous manner they
Did often to their golden idols pray,
According to the order of their king,
Which was indeed a bold presumptuous thing.

From heathen priests to virtue could proceed,
But by the work of God it was decreed,
His fond desire should fulfilled be,
That he a mighty miracle should see.

According to the will of God above,
His queen conceived, and with child did prove,
Then did the king joy through the land proclaim,
And thought his idol gods had caus'd the same.

Unto his heathen priests great gifts he sent,
Saying, *My days are crown'd with sweet content:
My queen is now conceiv'd, and I shall have,
The thing which I so long did wish and crave.*

Five of the wisest men that could be found
In King Avenerio's kingdom round,
He sent for them and did a feast prepare
Three months before her time expir'd were.

Unto these wise philosophers he said,
*My queen in three months will be brought to bed;
'Till then you in my palace shall remain,
That I my know what planet then will reign.*

P A R T III.

*The Queen being delivered of Jehosaphat, the Wise
Men told the Signification of the Child's Planet.*

AT last she was delivered of a son,
Which joyful tydings thro' the kindom run

The sweetest child that ever eyes beheld,
With joy and gladness then the king was fill'd.

Jehosaphat this prince was nam'd we find:
The wise men were disturbed in their minds,
For by the rule of planets they did see
Such things as would not with the king agree.

Four of them said, What shall we do alas!
For thro' this child strange things will come to pass;
Therefore we must dissemble with our king,
And tell him, 'twill be well in every thing.

Now when the wise men came in the king's view,
He said, What have you found, pray tell me true?
Four of them said, Fortune has on you smil'd,
For you are blest with a sweet hopeful child.

In every thing he will obey your will,
And crown your days with comfort still:
To hear these things the king was pleas'd in mind;
The wisest man he fear'd, and staid behind.

Then from the king these wise men did depart;
He for the other sent, and said, *Thou art*
The wisest man, and therefore tell thou me,
What you concerning of my child did see?

I am afraid to tell you, he reply'd,
Because, O King! you'll be dissatisfy'd;
Let it be good or ill speak, said the king,
For thee I will believe in every thing.

He said, O King! those men did flatter you;
What they have said, indeed it is not true:
For in that fatal hour I did see,
Your child is born a Christian for to be.

Up firmly for the Christian Faith he'll stand,
And all your priests he'll banish from the land;
Your golden gods he clearly will destroy;
Your days are mix'd with grief instead of joy.

Hearing these words the king to weeping fell,
Saying, *This is sad news which now you tell,*

*My joys are turn'd to sorrow, grief and woe,
Then how I may prevent it, let me know.*

The wise philosopher then said, behold,
Your child must suck till three years old,
And build a famous palace in that space,
That he may be secured in that place.

To wait on him, get twelve young virgins fair,
And some great knight to tute him with care;
The word of God or Christ ne'er let him hear,
And thus let him be kept for fifteen years.

Should one of them fall sick, or chance to die,
Besure you get another speedily;
No death or sickness let him e'er perceive,
But all for ever lives, make him believe.

Then take him forth all pleasures for to see,
And to some princess let him wedded be:
By this contrivance I'll assure you true,
Your child will be a comfort unto you.



P A R T IV.

*King Avenerio's Contrivances to have his Son brought
up in the Heathen Way, which prevailed not.*

THEN as the wise philosopher had said,
He caus'd a sumptuous palace to be made,
And soon he got twelve virgins, as we hear,
All ag'd from thirteen unto twenty years.

He put in trust Lionone call'd by name,
Who was a noble baron of great fame,
That he might be his tute and his guide,
To learn him well, and train him up in pride.

He was to be confin'd for fifteen years,
Commanding that God's word he might not hear;
Nor any talk of holy things divine;
But mark how God did baulk the king's design.

His father came oft time to see him there,
To whom the tuterer did this declare,
*Your son be doth increase in learning so,
He'll be a wise philosopher I know.*

Then said the king, *The wise man told to me,
My child was born a christian for to be;
That false philosopher I need not mind,
For now I shall much joy and comfort find.*

When 12 long years were gone and past, behold
The prince was then about fifteen years old;
He lov'd one virgin more then all the rest,
To whom Jehosaphat his mind exprest.

*Why am I so confined here, I pray?
I long to see my father's palace gay,
And walk abroad to take the air likewise,
Why are these things thus bidden from my eyes?*

Now if you will reveal the truth to me,
Thou ever shalt high in my favour be;
But if thou dost refuse, I'll scorn thee quite,
And never will endure thee in my sight.

The damsel said, then as her eyes did flow,
Your father will put me to death I know,
If I should tell; and if I it refuse,
Then I for ever must your favour loose.

Jehosaphat said, Speak, be not afraid:
So then she told him what the wise man said;
And did unto the prince the cause relate,
Why he was kept confined at this rate.

Should you go forth the city for to see,
Your heart with mirth will ravish'd be,
To view the court, and famous buildings store,
This set the prince a longing more and more.

And said to Lionone, *One thing I crave,
To walk abroad I may some freedom have;*
The knight went to the king, and got him leave,
But, O the king in floods of tears did grieve!

The king set forth a proclamation then,
That blind and lame, and all deformed men
Should keep up close when the prince pass thro',
But strong and lusty should appear in view.

The prince was mounted on a lofty steed,
Great lords and barons met him there indeed,
To 'commode him through the city fair,
While at each window music play'd most rare.

The people were amaz'd at this fine sight,
Likewise the prince was fill'd with great delight;
Then home he went, and to the damsel told,
What pleasant sights that day he did behold.

Most royal prince, the damsel then did say,
Did you but see the fields and gardens gay,
Where birds do sing, and fragrant flowers grow,
You would be much more ravish'd I know.

Once more the tutor did the king acquaint,
The second time to give his son content:
Setting his proclamation forth again,
So out they went with all their noble train.

The fields and gardens gave him great delight,
And singing birds his heart did much invite;
He was well pleas'd to view the parks most rare,
When evening came, for home they did repair.

But now to drive off all these pleasures gay,
They met with two objects by the way;
One blind, the other full of leprosie,
Who for the sake of God crav'd charity.

The prince unto his tutor then did say,
What is the meaning, tell me now I pray,
Of these strange creatures? Straight the knight replies,
They are two men full of infirmities.

For by the cause of sin, 'tis God's decree,
Some men are born afflicted for to be;
As blind or lame, such things the Lord doth show;
That all may praise his name that are not so.

*Jehosaphat then said, if this be true,
The like as well may fall on me or you :*

*The King then said, God knows best ; so home they
Jehosaphat was fill'd with discontent. [went,*

*The Tutor then unto the King made known,
Your son is very melancholy grown :
Some sport and pastime therefore let him see,
In hopes his drooping heart may cheered be.*

*The King gave leave, the tutor once more came,
With many lords and barons of great fame,
To ride a hunting, then they took their way ;
In mirth they spent a pleasant summer's day.*

*But riding home, out of a cell appears
A man, whose age was near one hundred years,
Bald-headed, toothless, hollow-ey'd withal
The palsy shook him, he could hardly crawl.*

*Jehosaphat then said, Pray let me know
What thing is this so strange, and seems to go ?
The Knight said, 'Tis a man with age quite spent,
Ready to die—This made the Prince relent.*

*Prince) When must he die, O tell me now I pray ?
Tutor) No :—but GOD, can tell his dying day.*

*Prince) What must be done with him when he is dead ?
Tutor) Then under earth his body must be laid.*

*Then said the Prince, If that it must be so,
This is a vain deceitful world I know :*

*The pleasure of it I'll no longer prize,
But have the thoughts of death before mine eyes.*

*Now when the tutor he these things had told,
The King did weep and said, My heart seems cold ;
My child is come to ruin now, alas !*

fear the wiseman's words will come to pass.

PART

P A R T V.

Prince Jehosaphat's Conversion to the Christian Faith and Doctrine.

BARLAAM, a christian hermit, who had spent
 Long time in desert places, God he sent
 An Angel, who unto the hermit saith
Go teach Jehosaphat the christian faith.

*What e'er thou say'st, he shall be rul'd by thee,
 For God hath chose Jehosaphat to be
 His faithful servant guiltless of offence,
 Tho' kept so long in wicked ignorance*

Then Barlaam came unto his palace brave,
 To whom the porter said what would you have?
 Said Barlaam, I must speak with your great Prince,
 The Man at first deny'd him entrance

Barlaam) I am a merchant now I tell to thee,
 And brought a precious jewel here with me;
 All other things the same it doth outvy,
 For he that keeps the same shall never die.

The virtue of this jewel is so pure,
 All manner of distempers it will cure;
 If he were blind, 'twou'd give him perfect sight;
 If he were lame, 'wou'd make him walk upright.

Porter) *Pray let me see this jewel if you can?*
Barlaam.) I dare not show it to a marry'd man;
 For none must see it but a virgin pure;
 Your Prince a virgin is, I can assure

The porter knowing what he said was true,
 Said, *I will go and tell the Prince of you.*
 He went and told the Prince, who soon was free,
 He to his chamber should admitted be.

When Barlaam came, the prince said, *Let me see
 The precious jewel you have brought for me:*

Barlaam) You cannot see it with an outward sight
 But must behold it with an inward light.

Then prince *Jehosaphat* did mildly say,
What do you mean by inward light I pray?
Barlaam the hermit made this answer then;
This jewel is the S A V I O U R of all men.

The Gods you serve are devils I you tell,
And leading you the ready way to hell:
There's none to serve, but one true God of might:
Hearken to me, and I will teach you right.

God made the heavens, *Lucifer* first fell
With many more down to the pit of hell
For pride, and so the devils all became
To be tormented in a burning flame,

Those being fell, the heavens were left bare,
So by that means the world created were:
In six days space God did this work fulfil,
And made all things according to his will.

Man being made well-pleasing in his sight,
The devil was enrag'd with wrath and spight;
'Cause he himself can in no pleasure dwell,
He fain would draw all sons to him in hell.

The devil's snare first caused *Adam's* fall,
Which was the cause mankind sinned all;
And so the world became filthy and vain,
But by Christ's death it was restor'd again.

When *Barlaam* had explain'd the scriptures o'er,
The prince increas'd in learning more and more:
He said, *I will believe and bear in mind,*
My Christ that dy'd for me and all mankind.

O teach me how to serve my God most pure,
That after death my soul may be secure,
With God and Christ, who dwell in lofty sky.
Barlaam, in parable made this reply.

To a great Lord two coffins once were brought,
One of them very fine and richly wrought
With gold, the other old and rotten were:
He chose that coffin which was wrought so rare.

The gaudy coffin being open'd wide,
A parcel of old rotten bones he 'spy'd :
The rotten coffin then burst open were,
Where he beheld choice pearls and diamonds rare
He blush'd for shame, and was converted straight ;
Crying O Lord my sins are very great ;
The glory of the earth is vain I see,
The poorest of this world will happiest be.

The prince said, I will worldly pleasures slight,
And in the poor will place my whole delight :
Henceforth I will defy all pomp and pride,
I thank you brother, Jesus by my guide.



P A R T VI.

*King Avenerio's Malice against his Son Jehosaphat
for being a Christian.*

L Ionone finding what would come to pass,
He smote upon his breast, and cry'd, alas !
What answer shall I make my sovereign lord ?
Death without mercy will be my reward.

Then he a rope about his neck did fling,
And in this manner went unto the king :
Then kneeling down, he made a courteous bow,
The king reply'd, Sir what's the matter now ?

What art thou mad, Lionone, tell me true,
That you appear so strangely in my view ?
Lionone trembl'd ; and made this reply,
O hang me up, for I deserve to die.

I do deserve no mercy for my share,
You left your son under my charge and care,
To tutor him the way that is most right,
But now, alas ! your son is turned quite.

For by a false deceitful man's advice,
Who said he had a jewel of great price :

By his fly ways I fell into a snare ;
He's made your son a christian I declare.

He in the christian faith is grown so bold,
That our religion he in scorn doth hold ;
He rails against our gods at a vile rate,
And says they shall be burned at his gate.

Rise up Lionone, then reply'd the king,
I will not execute you for this thing :
Thou may'st be sure no harm shall come to thee,
But on my son revenged I will be.

If that he will not turn to us again,
As I'm a king I'll cause him to be slain :
I'd better kill him though he is my child,
Then let my kingdom utterly be spoil'd.

Then sending for his son, these words he said,
Hast thou my law and counsel disobey'd ?
If it be true what I have heard of thee,
Then by my honour thou destroy'd shall be.

I have been told thou art a christian turn'd,
If it be so, 'tis fit thou should'st be burn'd :
Thou shall not live to overcome my land ;
The truth of this now let me understand.

Father, I am a christian to be plain,
That holy faith I ever will maintain :
To suffer death I will be very free,
For my dear Christ that shed his blood for me.

Then did he give his son sad kicks and blows,
Till blood gusht out both from his mouth and nose,
I thank you, Father, then reply'd the son,
It is GOD's will to me this should be done.

My Saviour Christ with many stripes was beat,
And to the cross they nail'd his hands and feet,
To bear your blows with patience I am free,
I cannot bear what Christ hath bore for me.

To find out Barlaam then we understand,
He sent a proclamation through the land ;

That man by whom this hermit could be found,
Should have for his reward a hundred pound.

Long time they sought him, but 'twas all in vain,
He thought to take his son and have him slain,
His counsel said, your son pray do not slay,
And we will put you in a better way.

Nicor resembles Barlaam in the face,
Let him be brought before his royal grace,
He'll think 'tis Barlaam, therefore Nicor must
Tell him the heathen way is good and just.

And say 'twas false what he had said before,
So by that means your son we may restore;
And bring him safe into our way again,
Then he the christian faith will quite disdain.

Let all the christians which confined are,
Be brought into your royal palace rare,
To hear the strong dispute; when this is done,
They'll all turn heathens with the prince your son.

Then Nicor being sent for to the Court,
The King unto his son gave this report:
Barlaam is taken which thou soon shall see,
Then said the prince, *This News rejoiceth me.*

So soon as Nicor to the court was brought,
The prince was filled with a jealous thought,
It was not Barlaam, sometimes thought he was;
Then he began to plead the heathen's cause.

The prince before them all, said, *Wicked elf,*
What art thou come to plead against thy self?
Except thou dost the Christian faith maintain,
This very day by me thou shalt be slain.

Remember David, God's anointed king,
Who slew the proud Philistine with a sling:
If thou art ne'er so strong, assured I be,
Into my hands God will deliver thee.

Said Nicor I was sent you to deceive,
The devil brought me here, I do believe:

I am not Barlaam, Nicor is my name,
Brought up a heathen Lord, the more's my shame.

No more I'll be a heathen for my part,
But serve the christian God with all my heart:
The pagans down their heathen books did fling,
And burnt their Gods in presence of the king.

P A R T VII.

*The Conversion of King Avenerio, which caused the
Gospel of Christ to be publickly manifested through-
out the whole land.*

SEEING these things the king aloud did cry,
O! what a wretched, sinful man am I!

Against the holy word of truth to fight,

I find the christian faith is pure and right.

Against that faith I will no longer hold:

O blessed be the wise men that foretold

What was decreed at thy sweet righteous birth,

Bless'dst child that e'er was born on earth.

Dear son, behold I fall down at thy feet,

Hoping thou wilt by prayer to God intreat

In my behalf to cleanse my sinful soul,

Which has been long polluted, vain and foul.

Rise up, dear father, then the prince did say,

I'll beg of God to wash your sins away,

My heart is cheer'd to see such change in you;

The thoughts do more and more my joys renew.

Father, it was God's will I should be sent,

To save you from the dreadful punishment,

Of hell's hot fire, which doth poor souls destroy,

We shall be crown'd with everlasting joy.

Churches were built, the land became divine,

Then did the righteous gospel spread and shine:

The poor confined christians were set free,
 Christian love the land did soon agree.
 Death call'd the king down to his silent tomb,
Jehasaphat reign'd in his father's room;
 And was by all his subjects dearly lov'd,
 Because the word of Christ was well approv'd,
 Thus for some time he did the faith defend,
 But in that land his life he did not end:
 But to *Alfanes* did his throne resign,
 That he might keep it holy and divine.

For fear that worldly pleasures which are vain,
 In any wise should bring him back again
 He sought out *Barlaam* to be satisfy'd,
 In lonesome desarts he with hermits dy'd.

The people griev'd for loss of their good prince,
 But good *Alfanes* stood in the defence
 Of the true faith which is divine and pure,
 And ever shall from age to age endure.

All we that in a christian nation dwell,
 We ought to mind Gods word, and prize it well,
 And not abuse it as we daily do,
 For fear just punishment shou'd us pursue.

Since mighty miracles so plain are seen,
 Let's beg of God for faith to make us clean:
 That after death our souls may live on high,
 With **JESUS CHRIST** to all eternity.



I'll beg of God
 My heart is changed in you
 The thoughts of more joy renew
 Father, it will I should be sent
 To have you from the land of
 Of hell, but first, which doth poor souls destroy
 We shall be crown'd with everlasting joy
 Churches were built, the land became divine
 Then did the righteous gospel spread and shine